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MONTANA D.E.S. ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

The fall training activities of the Disaster and Emergency Services Division and State Emergency Response Commission took place September 13-14 in Great Falls with more than sixty local officials taking part in two workshops. One, on "Multiple Death Disaster Response," brought a sharing of ideas and experiences by instructors from both within and without Montana. The chairman of the Department of Embalming at the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, James Dorn, described airliner, bus and fire disasters in his area where sometimes more than 100 persons died, prompting the need for temporary morgues. Gerald Lewis, Chief of the FBI's Identification Division, discussed problems associated with identifying victims in multiple death situations. Attendees were impressed by the slides and videotape brought by each instructor to graphically portray disaster scenes and the planning that must go into dealing with them. Mr. Lewis says the FBI has teams available at all times to assist with victim identification in disasters, but stressed that such assistance must be requested. They do not respond without an invitation. DES Chief Planner Bob Musselman, Flathead County Coordinator Kim Potter, Kalispell Regional Hospital Chaplain Paul Taylor, State Department of Justice Identification Bureau Chief Michael Miller, Search and Rescue Coordinator Ralph DeCunzo and Coroner Mickey Nelson, both of Lewis and Clark County, rounded out an exceptional instructional staff. Group reports on "Developing a Jurisdictional Strategy for Multi-Death Response" concluded the workshop. The second workshop dealt with Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC). Bob Hite of FEMA's Region 8, the EPA's Carol Way, State Fire Marshall Ray Blehm, Butch Weedon of the Fire Service Training School, Bob Musselman and State DES Deputy Administrator Chris Christensen led attendees through SARA Title III, the LEPC planning process, use of the plan, communications and dealing with spills. The workshops were valuable in two ways: They permitted the valuable exchange of much information. And, they permitted me as the new Administrator of DES to get to know many more associates across our state who are tasked with the demanding jobs of serving and protecting the people of their communities. I left very impressed with the high level of dedication and selfless service that so many give to their neighbors in the Big Sky Country.

- F. Guy Youngblood

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	CONTACT
Oct.			
3	State Emergency Response Commission	Helena	Guy Youngblood
10	CCA 1989-4th Qtr. Statements of Work Due	Local	Dist. Reps.
11-13	State Director's Conference, FEMA VIII	St. George, UT	Guy Youngblood
18	Earthquake Exercise	Butte/Silver Bow	Wilma Puich
19-20	Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Mtg.	Missoula	Bill Thomas
Nov.			
1	Hazardous Winter Weather Seminar	Helena	Guy Youngblood
13-17	Intro. to Emergency Mgmt. Course	Helena	Kate Selby
15	Computer Use in Disaster & Emergency Management Decision Making	Teleconference	Dan Lieberg
Dec.			
5-8	Radiological Response Team Course	Helena	Dan Lieberg

PLEASE RETURN

WEATHER? OR NOT...?

Now that the severe convective weather season is winding down, here is a recap of this past season. From May through the middle of August, the National Weather Service Offices in Montana issued more than 100 warnings and informational statements on severe or potentially severe thunderstorms. Sixty-three were issued July 20 - 27.

We also noticed more county coordinators organized spotters this summer and these spotters have begun calling some of our weather offices with reports. These reports sure helped us to identify and issue warnings for severe weather for the downstream folks. Keep 'em coming!!!

Also noteworthy was the good rapport and cooperation we had with the Montana Highway Patrol Communications, Center without whom, most of our warnings probably would not have reached the county coordinators and Sheriff's offices.

A new program recently established with the State DES Office is daily briefings from Great Falls Weather Forecasters, held around 7:00 a.m., Monday through Friday. This two-way interaction will help identify upcoming severe weather situations.

Now we are beginning to turn our attention to winter!! It won't be too long before cold winter storms will be upon us. In the lower 48, it is Montana which feels the cold bite first. Several NOAA publications are available to help you prepare for the inevitable.....SNOW/COLD..... One of the better publications, **WINTER STORMS** is available under NOAA/PA 79018. This publication also has a wind chill chart.

- Dave Olsen
National Weather Service
Great Falls, MT

GET IT ON FILM
(and into the catalog)

The 1989-1990 catalog of training courses for emergency management is currently under development and will be out in October. We are looking for photographs to include in the publication again this year. The photographs should be action-oriented, clearly showing disaster response activities to promote emergency management and coordination. Uniforms, logos and insignias also help to visually emphasize that disaster management requires a multi-agency response.

We have had a lot of incidents of a very serious nature in Montana this year. There should be some great pictures out there showing what it's really all about when it comes to disaster response and coordination.

Those of you who wish to submit photos for consideration should send them to Kate Selby at the State Office.

Both black and white and color photos are usable. All photos will be returned to the owner.

- Kate Selby

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CANINE SEARCH & RESCUE UNIT

Caroline Hebard, Bernardsville, NJ, and Bill Dotson, Ruckersville, VA, head the 20-member U.S. Disaster Team Canine Unit. This team is the only one of its kind sanctioned by the U.S. State Department. It is sponsored by ALPO Petfoods, Allentown, PA.

The SAR team, all volunteers, spends hundreds of hours each year perfecting their skills. They are also working to help develop guidelines and standards for other canine SAR units

throughout the U.S., so that all groups will offer similar skill levels and professionalism in handling the emotionally-charged situations they frequently encounter.

If you have questions about this canine team, contact Judy Kroeger or Kathy McHale at 215-821-1299.

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SHELTER SURVEYING IN NORTHWEST MONTANA - OR WHAT I DID AT SUMMER CAMP

By: Montana's Roving Shelter Analyst

Through rain, through snow, through sleet, through dead of night, derailments, explosions, et al, etc., etc., I somehow managed to complete surveying in Lake County. I am proud to announce that due to the gracious help (and tolerance) of local coordinator Dick Giffin, and all the other people of the county who allowed me to roam within their dwellings. Lake County has a total of 53 new fallout shelters and 306 new reception and care shelters.

The last part of June and July found me wandering about in Flathead County -- Kim Potter's territory -- where I began by surveying the schools of Kalispell. Also, I am preparing a shelter analysis for nuclear defense (SAND) analysis on the new Flathead County EOC, a process that takes a little longer than your normal day-to-day surveys.

To perform a SAND survey, the analyst must identify every building within 200 feet of an EOC. To do this I had a nice 200-feet-long metal measuring tape - note the word "had." For those of you unfamiliar with the Flathead County EOC, it is built on Main Street, which is also Hwy 93 North. Thanks to a semi truck and a Greyhound Bus, I now have (much to Eda's amusement at the time) 7 metal rules of varying length.

The last time I was in Flathead County was during the spill at Whitefish Lake. Being green in this aspect of our work prompted my superiors to send me on the incident. It is what we train for, it was good experience. But, let's hope it doesn't happen again soon anywhere.

I will be back in Kalispell again at the start of the new fiscal year, that is October, to continue surveying.

Well, I have been saying it in every newsletter so far that this year: I am going to be doing some work in Jefferson County. September's the month, Jim, I intend to spend at least three weeks finishing up surveying in Boulder and starting new surveys in Whitehall. Watch for me. I'm the guy with the stick with the wheel on the end.

- Jim Kujawa

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RADEF

Since the last newsletter, the RADEF Section has been extremely busy exchanging instruments and teaching radiological classes in Deer Lodge, Powell, Granite, Sanders, Flathead, Lincoln, Mineral and Lake Counties. This next fiscal year the RADEF Section will exchange instruments and teach monitoring classes in District #3. Jim and I appreciate the support from the District #1 coordinators and, we look forward to working with the disaster personnel in District #3.

This office is continuing the process of transferring shelter and monitor information to our computer. Jim recently returned from a computer school in Denver, CO, and he is ready to assist this office with his expertise.

- Bill Davis & Jim Brown

NEWS FROM THE COUNTIES

The following article was submitted by Orin Olsgaard, Missoula County CD Coordinator.

HAZMAT SCENE OPERATIONS AND SAFETY CHECKLISTS

As part of their chemical emergency planning, the Missoula LEPC appointed a working group of fire fighters from the Missoula Fire Department and the Missoula Rural Fire District to evaluate on-scene procedures for hazardous material incidents. A review of existing plans and recent incidents led the group to conclude that serious procedural problems existed during the first hour of the incident. The following deficiencies by first responders were noted:

1. Appropriate steps were not taken to protect themselves and their vehicles;
2. Guidance to declare a hazardous materials incident, and thereby activate a designated second response, was not available;
3. Coordination with law enforcement, owner/operator and health was not initiated in an effective manner;
4. New OSHA standards for on-scene procedures had not been implement in tactical plans.

To correct these deficiencies, the group looked at the who-what-where-when-why for each on-scene agency. This step concluded with a set of draft checklists defining responsibilities and authority being developed. The draft checklists were then given a review by individual police officers, sheriff deputies, health officers, various owner/operators and other fire fighters. The checklists were then prepared for testing.

On March 3, 1989, four teams assembled to test the checklist in table-top exercises. Each team consisted of 2 fire fighters, 2 law enforcement officers, one health officer and 2 company officers of private firms. The four exercise scenarios covered incidents involving railroad, truck, facility and institution. Monitors and exercise facilitators were assigned to each team. The results of the exercise debriefings were used to further improve the checklists.

To assure the checklists are readily available to first responders, the group decided to recommend placement in every fire engine. In addition, copies would be given to law enforcement and health officers. The group also decided that availability depended on having the checklists produced and mounted in a format that would be easily recognized and safe from being lost or misplaced. The solution was a set of laminated cards placed in a blue VHS cassette box to which both a rope hanger and a strong magnet had been affixed. The box can be mounted firmly to the dashboard or other vehicle cab location.

The group titled the checklists "HAZMAT SOS" for Hazardous Material Scene Operations and Safety. The Missoula Fire Department and the Missoula Rural Fire Department now carry the HazMat SOS in every first-in engine. In addition, HazMat SOS is carried by each on-call health officer and shift commanders of the Missoula City Police and Missoula County Sheriff.

(Ed. If you want more information on the Missoula County HazMat SOS cards, please contact Orin Olsgaard at 721-5700, Ext. 458.)

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STATE OWNED FIRE VEHICLES

Hill County Rural Fire Departments recently had questions concerning who

insures state owned fire trucks. Each rural department is required to provide insurance for its vehicles and personnel. However, many departments were currently not insuring their state owned trucks, but were unsure as to who was liable if one of these trucks were involved in an accident.

The Department of State Lands indicated that their office carried insurance for the vehicle, but not for the driver. At this point, we became confused because how many accidents occur in vehicles without drivers? The answer is very simple after a complete review of everyone's insurance. All rural and city fire departments must place their firemen on Workers' Compensation to cover accidental on the job disability. If a fireman is driving a state owned vehicle he is covered by Workers' Compensation and the vehicle is covered by the Department of State Lands comprehensive insurance. It all works out in the end.

- Clay Vincent
Hill County

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RESCUE 911

We need your help! Rescue 911 will be broadcast on the CBS Television Network, Tuesdays, starting on September 5.

This show is dedicated to the heros who respond to cries for help each and every day.

We need your help in finding compelling true life stories. Please let us know about the dramatic calls you have received and the responses that have occurred.

Call Richard Kraft, collect, at 213-466-8875.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

As of October 1, 1989, two additional courses will be added to the requirements for completion of the Professional Development Series (PDS) courses. One is entitled "Civil Defense Systems, Programs and Policies" and the other is the "Development of Volunteer Resources." Both will be offered in Montana over the next two years.

Individuals who successfully complete the PDS courses are eligible to attend the 4-1/2 day Capstone Seminar offered at the Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, MD. The focus of the seminar is on current national preparedness and other issues of relevance to state and local emergency management.

- Kate Selby

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WE'VE BEEN WORKING WITH THE RAILROADS

Notification procedures are currently being worked on between State DES and Montana's two major rail companies, Montana Rail Link and Burlington Northern.

MRL has already agreed to notify State DES of any train that derails, and 1) blocks streets or roads; and/or 2) has hazardous materials on the consist. When State DES is notified the information will be forwarded to the local DES during working hours, and the county 24-hr. contact point after hours.

Jim Anderson is laying the ground work with MRL and Bill Thomas has just been assigned the task with BN.

Ultimately, we would like notification of all derailments that occur within Montana.

- Dan Lieberg

MUTUAL AID FREQUENCIES

After nine years, positive progress is being made towards making mutual aid frequencies a reality in Montana.

As previously reported in the DES newsletter, Federal Engineering had completed a study of mutual aid frequencies for Montana and submitted their report to the Department of Administration. Their report was subsequently presented to the Telecommunications Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC). The Committee then appointed user work groups to review the report and make written recommendations back to the Committee. These recommendations were given to the Department of Administration, Telecommunications Bureau.

The Telecommunications Bureau is currently in the process of writing policies and usage guidelines for mutual aid frequencies based on the recommendations from the work groups. In addition, the Bureau is developing reference materials for the mutual aid frequencies. The reference materials will consist of wallet cards, visor cards, and user booklets. These are scheduled for printing and statewide distribution in September 1989.

Last, but not least, the final version of the mutual aid frequency plan will be filed with the Federal Communications Commission.

!! HAPPY COMMUNICATING AND MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!!

- Homer Young

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DPI-ing

My first couple months as a new DPI planner gave me a quick introduction to life at Montana DES: the possibility of a repeat of last year's fire season; the continuing drought conditions; the Whitefish Lake spill--all within the first two weeks! Now that I have the week-long Emergency Planning Course behind me, I'm up to speed on the FEMA method of emergency planning. As my previous planning experience was with the U.S. Department of Energy and its operating contractors, I am not as familiar with FEMA's requirements as most of you are.

I worked primarily at DOE's Feed Materials Production Center (a nuclear weapons production facility) outside Cincinnati. My job included development of county-level, site-specific emergency plans as well as emergency procedures for plant responders and the off-site warning system. In addition, I was involved in the design of the plant's new EOC and numerous exercises and drills.

I have been designated the Montana DES natural hazards planner. Working with natural hazards will be a welcome change from chemical and nuclear hazards, and will help balance out my planning experience. I am excited to learn more about the natural phenomena that affect our lives here in Montana and to work with the people who have chosen to make safety and emergency response their profession.

- Gretchen Bingman

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DISTRICT I HIGHLIGHTS

1. Pat Clark, Deputy DES coordinator and Dillon police chief recently resigned. Pat was enthusiastic, knowledgeable and involved -- a difficult combination to replace.

2. "It can't happen here," eh? Planners in Alaska were so convinced that

a spill of the magnitude which occurred in Prince William Sound was so unlikely that planning for one would be unnecessary (New York Times 4/2/89).

3. The State DES facsimile number is 444-6965.

4. The U.S. chemical and petroleum industries reportedly manufacture 275 million gallons of gasoline and 2.5 million pounds of pesticides and herbicides every day; an additional 723,000 tons of hazardous wastes are generated daily (Time, 1984).

5. Special Resources Management (Butte-based hazardous materials cleanup company), in their recently revised off-site transportation contingency plan, defines the incident commander as "The public official who legally is responsible for managing the incident to a satisfactory conclusion."

6. This past winter, Jefferson County solved the problem of jelled diesel fuel for the EOC emergency generator by installing a cattle water tank heater for about $30.00.

7. Studies by geologists show that Mount Shasta (California) has erupted 10 or 11 times during the last 3,400 years and at least 3 times in the last 750 years. Mount Shasta does not erupt at regular intervals, but its history suggests that it erupts at an average rate of roughly once per 250 to 300 years. If the behavior of the volcano has not changed, the chance is 1 in 25 to 30 that it will erupt in any one decade and 1 in 3 or 4 that it will erupt within a person's lifetime. (Source: Volcanic Hazards at Mt. Shasta, CA., U.S. Dept. of the Interior, USGS, 1987). (Ed. Mount Shasta last erupted in 1786.)

8. The University of Colorado, Institute of Behavioral Science provides a series of publications, some of which might be of interest and use to local DES. Publications include an Environment and Behavior Monograph Series, a Natural Hazards Research Working Paper Series, Natural Hazards Special Publications, and Quick Response Research Reports. A publications list can be obtained at no charge from Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, Campus Box 482, University of Colo. 80309-0482.

9. Alberta Public Safety Services is offering a new publication called "Insight." The purpose of the publication is to inform readers about current developments concerning preparation for, response to and follow-up on human-caused or natural disasters in Alberta. A recent issue had articles on search and rescue, emergency medical stockpiling and hazardous materials management. "Insight" is free to subscribers anywhere by writing "Insight", Director of Communications, Alberta Public Safety Services, 10320 146 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 3A2, Canada.

10. "A study of the devastating northern California Fires of 1987 appears to lend support to the nuclear winter theory, which holds that there would be catastrophic global cooling in the aftermath of a nuclear war, reports the L.A. Times. Those fires created a self-perpetuating inversion that trapped a layer of smoke over the Klamath River canyon and kept high temperatures an average of 27 degrees below normal for a week. While the findings of University of Maryland meteorologist Alan Robeck do not in themselves prove the nuclear winter scenario, he said the dramatic impact of smoke on surface temperatures support the notion that substantial worldwide cooling would result if the entire

planet was enveloped in smoke." (Source: Wildland Fire Management Briefings, Apr/May 1989.)

11. According to "Disaster Preparedness Report" of the National Weather Service, April 1989, there were no weather-related deaths in Montana in 1988.

12. This from the front page of the New York Times Tuesday, December 16, 1941 (yes, 1941). Headline: "Air Warden Orders Will Be Backed Up By $500 Penalties." The articles reads in part:

> "Failure to obey civil defense regulations or refusal to comply with the orders of air raid wardens would be made punishable by a jail term of not more than six months or a fine of not more than $500 by a local law to be introduced at this afternoon's meeting of the City Council by majority leader Joseph T. Sharkey of Brooklyn.
>
> The measure, which was requested yesterday by Mayor LaGuardia, also provides that during an air raid all except duly authorized persons must immediately leave streets, parks and open spaces and proceed to the nearest cover, and that vehicles must be parked immediately and their passengers take to the nearest shelter.
>
> After the air-raid alarms last Tuesday and Wednesday many air-raid wardens complained that crowds thronged into the streets to see what was going on and ignored their directives to seek shelter."

13. Congratulations to Dick Giffin, Lake Co. DES, who was appointed effective July 1, 1989, as full-time DES coordinator by the Board of County Commissioners.

14. Congratulations also to Dennis Brown who has been appointed Lincoln Co. Deputy DES coordinator. Dennis served for years on the Libby VFD and he and his wife, Marian, are both EMT's and advanced first-aid instructors. Among other projects, Dennis and Marian are working with coordinator Mick Mills to revise the county Emergency Operations Plan.

15. Congratulations to Larry Laknar whose DES position was expanded to half-time beginning July 1, 1989.

- Bill Thomas

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DISTRICT II HIGHLIGHTS

100% of my time is being spent on closing out FEMA 761 and 777, and as soon as that is complete, I will be back out to visit the counties and attempt to catch up on happenings within the district.

It appears as if most of the budgets went through as planned with a few exceptions. No major disasters have occurred. Several fuel spills have been reported. A homemade bomb was found in a cable repair trench to one of the missile sites in Cascade County. The district should be well represented at the training sessions in Great Falls during September.

Floyd "Bud" Lutz, Glacier County, has resigned for health reasons. Bud attended many training sessions and conferences as the assistant coordinator and during the last year as the coordinator. The county is actively recruiting for his replacement.

- Chuck McCombs

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DISTRICT IV HIGHLIGHTS

WATCH THIS SPACE NEXT ISSUE, I HAVE COMMITMENTS FROM THREE COUNTIES TO PROVIDE ME WITH NEWS MATERIAL.

Thanks to the Wibaux Fire Department for inviting me to discuss the Helena Train Wreck with them, the turn out was real good.

For those of you who were at the excellent "Exercise Design Course" in Miles City: Con's goats are alright, Helmut is still with us, Sid has developed a "Summer EOC" in Red Lodge, and Gloria now has the ranch under control.

Thanks to all of the counties in District IV, all EOP's are finished and submitted to Helena. Time to start over again?

Counties need to review and update your resource listing and the SOP that outlines the process of when and how you will activate your EOC. You might want to also take another look at the Incident Command System.

Almost every county has had or is having a county fair. For those counties that did something at the fair to promote your DES program, would you let me have a little report on how it went? Now is the time to consider what you want to do at next year's fair and order material, brochures, films, etc.

District IV Association meeting was held in Sidney, August 28.

- Norm Parrent -

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USING DATA IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SALEMDUG. No, this not a mutant created by gene splicing or an ugly, glow-in-the-dark bug that eats your favorite jacket.

SALEMDUG is the acronym for the State and Local Emergency Management Data User's Group. Quite a mouthful, you say? Quite an organization according to the 170+ members.

County, city, and state representatives: emergency managers of all kinds have joined SALEMDUG. Nowhere else is there an organization that deals specifically with the automated data processing (ADP) needs and computer-related problems encountered by folks in the emergency management business.

As our jobs and responsibilities become more complex, all of us have looked for ways to save time. We have especially looked for better ways to protect the lives of the public we serve, though faster response or more accurate hazard assessment. This search has pushed us, kicking and screaming sometimes, into the realm of computers.

Computers, however can not solve any problem without trained people to use them. Limited background in ADP and even more limited funds have prevented us from making full use of the computer capability at hand.

Enter SALEMDUG.

SALEMDUG provides a forum for computer-related problem solving. Discussions with others who share the same type of problems allow us to learn from their mistakes. It also lets us steal...uh...borrow their solutions and adapt those solutions to our needs.

SALEMDUG has an annual conference where members from across the nation meet. Here we discuss the most innovative software and applications

available to emergency managers. Proprietary software users get a chance to discuss the latest glitch (and the latest fix), while others get the opportunity to show off the software they've developed. (Many of you may have already seen the New York State RE:Source, Version 3.5 software that led the competition this year.)

The 1990 meeting of the group has been scheduled for April 4-6, 1990 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This will be the first meeting in three years to be held in a western region state, so take advantage of the opportunity and make your reservations early.

But, what of those emergency managers who don't have the time or budget to travel to conferences? SALEMDUG and its' main resource, our members, can be reached through the SALEMDUG bulletin board. The SALEMDUG bulletin board gives access to innovative data user's 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

By now you're asking,"So what's the catch? Where's the fee? What will this cost?" Lucky you! No charge!!! Certainly you pay your own freight to the conferences and phone charges when you access the bulletin board, but membership is FREE!

Because this is a state AND local group, our goal is to increase local membership. Local membership has increased three-fold in the last year, now we're hoping you will join and share your ADP experience.

We are encouraging data user's in each state to have meetings within the state and share your experience with folks who have the same problems. Regional meetings of these state groups is a possibility in the near future. But first, the interest must be there.

Call for more information or drop a postcard with your name, address and phone number to Mary Arnold, SALEMDUG Membership Committee chair, C/O Montana Disaster & Emergency Services, P. O. Box 4789, Helena, Montana 59604-4789.

- Mary Arnold

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POPULATION ALLOCATION IN MONTANA

Several changes in federal planning guidance will be instituted during the four year plan revision cycle that begins in FFY 1990. Each jurisdiction will be asked to revise or add to the evacuation and shelter annexes in their emergency operations plans. These additions will more clearly define the relationship between host and risk counties during the threat of nuclear attack.

The "Population Allocation Summary for the Nuclear Attack Threat in Montana - June 1989" identifies the attack risk to Montanans. It also provides a common base from which to coordinate local plan revisions.

The Population Allocation Summary includes planning situations and assumptions based on Nuclear Attack Planning Base - 1990 (NAPB-90). It summarizes the locations and types of shelter available in Montana. And lastly, it designates blast and fallout risk counties and host counties for risk populations.

The Summary will be revised during the first quarter of FFY 1990 to reflect the shelter survey work completed during FFY 1989. Future revisions will be completed as surveys update Reception and Care or Nuclear Fallout Shelter listings.

- Mary Arnold

FIRST SCHEDULED WORKSHOP FOR 1989-1990

The Introduction to Emergency Management Course will be conducted in Helena, November 14-17. This course is offered to Disaster and Emergency Services coordinators, public officials and department heads holding emergency management-related positions, volunteer services personnel and first responders.

The Introduction to Emergency Management Course has recently been updated to reflect changes in the field of emergency management. In November, it will be offered in a new shortened format. A portion of the agenda is dedicated to a special session in the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for a program orientation and state staff introductions.

If you are a new Disaster and Emergency Services coordinator your attendance is encouraged. The deadline for applications is October 10.

- Kate Selby

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NEW ADMINISTRATOR - NEW ADMINISTRATION A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

A planner's dream. All new players (Department Heads), new enabling legislation (Stafford Act), and no preconceived notions. It's going to be a very interesting year in the Planning Section.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"... "we do things that way because we've always done things that way." Have you ever heard those statements before? Things are changing, and fast.

Newly appointed DES Administrator, Guy Youngblood's mandate to the Planning Section is "I want planning done from the ground up, not from the top down." A totally realistic, workable State Emergency Operations plan that will focus the resources of every state department and agency is the goal.

Be assured that the baby will not be tossed out with the bath, but every function, resource and procedure for their coordination will be examined by those responsible for implementing the plan before we call it "a done deal."

The new opportunities and responsibilities given over to the states by the Stafford Act in the areas of individual and public assistance as well as hazard mitigation will bring federal resources (buck$) to applicants in a more timely manner and in increased amounts. Many of the administrative procedures, also known as hoops, will be the responsibility of individual states and many "in place" mechanisms here in state government should get recovery assistance to eligible applicants much faster.

Future articles in this space will address a new Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Public Assistance Program and greatly enhanced Individual and Family Grant Program. Updated information for the Local Government Disaster Information manual as well as training for local officials is scheduled to take place during the next year.

I said it before, but I'll say it again...It's going to be a very interesting year in the Planning Section.

- Bob Musselman

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REIMBURSEMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RELEASES

Key Points Excerpted from EPA Fact Sheet.

Section 123 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) now authorizes EPA to reimburse local governments for expenses incurred in carrying out temporary emergency measures in response to hazardous substance threats. States are ineligible for reimbursement and may not request reimbursement on behalf of local jurisdictions.

Any city or county may apply for reimbursement, if certain criteria are demonstrated during the response. For example: Responses must comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Recovery Act (CERCLA), the National Contingency Plan (NCP), and the local comprehensive emergency response plan completed under SARA Title III. Other requirements must be met and information concerning the requirements can be obtained from the EPA.

For general information on CERCLA and reimbursement application package contact: RCRA/Superfund Hotline 1-800-424-9346.

For specific information on the Local Government Reimbursement Program contact:

- Karen Burgan, Project Officer
  Emergency Response Division (WH-548B)
  U.S. EPA
  401 M Street SW
  Washington, DC 20460

- Dan Lieberg

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COMINGS AND GOINGS

District II is going to miss Bud Lutz, Glacier County DES Coordinator. Bud worked as a deputy coordinator with Billie Wallace for several years. He has retired for health reasons.

Gretchen Bingman is the new face in the Helena office. Gretchen is a planner in the Disaster Preparedness Improvement Grant Program - DPI. (The 1989 legislature reinstated the position the 1987 legislature took away.) She has included pertinent information about her planning background in the article "DPI-ing," elsewhere in this newsletter.

Bill Yaeger is on board as a temporary planner. Bill gained experience with droughts while former-Lt. Governor Gordon McOmber's executive assistant last year. You may find his voice familiar--he spent nearly 15 years as a newscaster with the Intermountain Network before becoming a senior aide to former-Governor Ted Schwinden in 1986.

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BURLINGTON NORTHERN PLANNING AND TRAINING

Mr. Robert Morelli, Director of Safety and Rules, Montana Division, Burlington Northern, in a letter dated June 7, 1989, offered to meet with local governments to address emergency planning and hazardous materials training.

Mr. Morelli travels the state extensively and would welcome the opportunity to jointly plan with local DES coordinators. He is willing to tailer training to the specific needs of the audience.

He can be reached at:

- Robert A. Morelli
  Director Safety and Rules
  Emergency Response
  235 Main Street
  Havre, MT 59501
  Phone: (406) 265-0249

WHITEFISH AFTER-ACTION

The sheen is gone from Whitefish Lake, and as thoughts turn from containment and clean-up to claims and mitigation, several groups have been meeting to discuss what went well, and what could have gone better, in managing the emergency response to the second major hazardous materials derailment of 1989. On August 17, representatives of the state agencies that participated in the response met in the Emergency Operations Center to analyze their operations and to formulate plans for improving procedures.

Montana Emergency Operations Center

Among the bouquets and brickbats for the state DES staff was a commendation for recalling the concerned state agencies to cope with the incident, but a demerit for waiting to do so until the second day of the emergency. We will be more timely in the future.

It was also favorably acknowledged that the concept of holding two daily update briefings (9 AM, 5 PM), rather than keeping the entire EOC staff in session throughout the emergency, allowed the department directors to focus on the emergency and still maintain their schedules. Whenever possible, the response cell format will be used in future situations.

Numerous state agencies provided technical assistance at the spill scene. Unfortunately, the response was fragmented and initially uncoordinated. Efforts are underway to ensure that a unified state effort is available and that the arrival of these teams will cause minimal disruption to local efforts already underway. Plans are also being made for consolidating state logistical requirements such as contracting for quarters and meals and locally renting vehicles and equipment.

Whitefish Lake Emergency Scene

At the scene, the citizens of Flathead County responded to the challenge in a superior manner. Under the leadership of Kim Potter, Flathead County DES, and Rick Anderson, Whitefish Fire Chief, these volunteers implemented the Incident Command System (ICS). However, as in the case of the State EOC activation, this should have been accomplished in a more timely manner. ICS must be immediately implemented anytime a multi-agency response is underway. To aid in this process, the Incident Commander should be identified by position in the County Emergency Operations Plan.

It was also noted that the County EOC has a vital role to play in this type of response. Not only will activation of this facility furnish a readily identifiable point of contact for community concerns, but it will also ease the burden of the Incident Commander in procuring support and additional resources.

Rumors and public alarm abound in the absence of timely, factual information. Knowledgeable public information officers (PIO), such as Dick Mooney and Mick Mills, are invaluable assets during the initial response to any disaster or emergency. Our most recent experience confirmed that to make the best use of this essential resource, the PIO must have ready access to the latest technical information and to the EOC/ICS technical advisors. The use of a rumor control telephone line at the Whitefish Incident Command Post was an excellent idea.

The Future

The State of Montana has a vital role to pay in supporting the local DES Coordinator and the Incident Commander at the scene. Whether requesting a Technical Assistance Team or an unusual piece of equipment, a telephone call to the State EOC will immediately initiate the required level of response.

- F. Guy Youngblood

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HELEN ELLIOTT IS A PARTICIPANT IN A NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES PROJECT

Fire and police services and other members of the emergency services community use career standards to recognize, encourage and reward professional development and training. The emergency management member of local disaster preparedness and response teams does not yet have such a systematic tool for establishing professional credentials in a position that carries ever-increasing demands and responsibilities.

The National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management (NCCEM), the national organization representing local emergency management directors and specialists, has underway an intensive effort to develop professional standards that can serve this function.

Phase I of the project, funded through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was recently completed. It involved creating a preliminary "working definition" of three career levels.

A Montanan has taken part in the effort. Pondera County's part-time coordinator, Helena Elliott, is on the National Association of Counties (NACo) steering committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, working on the professional standards project. She says, "The participants have opened up many new ideas concerning various facets of emergency management."

Helen will keep us posted on progress, and we'll have updates on the project in future issues.

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